

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CUMBERLAND FIRE DISTRICT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015 AT 7:30 P.M.

CUMBERLAND TOWN HALL, 45 BROAD STREET, CUMBERLAND, RI

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lemois, Commissioners Koutsogiane, Matta, Parent, Champagne and Scullin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Ouellette is on vacation.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no general announcements at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA: Approval of minutes of February 9, 2015. Commissioner Koutsogiane had reviewed and made some corrections.

COMMISSIONER KOUTSOGIANE MOVED TO APPROVE AMENDED MINUTES PER HIS CORRECTIONS, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE. PASSED 6-0

Chairman Lemois would like to move item #6 (R-2015-02 Clerk's Position) up in the agenda as Commissioner Parent needs to leave and feels as part of the Personnel Committee that he should be there.

MOTION TO FILL CLERK'S POSITION MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MATTA, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER PARENT.

Commissioner Koutsogiane indicated that there was no statement on the Agenda that an appointment would be discussed/considered involving the 3 positions. ~~That there was no prior appointment of Clerk's position on prior agenda and does not indicate an appointment process.~~ He feels this is a violation of open meetings law and would like it to be put on record. Commissioner Scullin agreed that there should be a name attached to the appointment and also violation of open meeting laws.

After discussion, it was decided that this, and the other two appointments, should be tabled until the next meeting and attach name to the appointment to be on the safe side.

MOTION TO TABLE APPOINTMENTS MOVED BY COMMISSIONER KOUTSOGIANE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SCULLIN. PASSED 6-0.

Commissioner Parent needed to leave to the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MATTA. PASSED 5-0.

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MATTA. PASSED 5-0.

Chairman Lemois asked for the minutes of section A of the executive session to be sealed as it dealt specifically with personnel issues.

MOTION TO SEAL MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER MATTA. PASSED 5-0.

Joy Sullivan was sent a letter to bring her concerns into Executive Session but she wanted to bring into open session of meeting. There will be no hearing or input but merely take notes and information.

The Finance Director, Tom Bruce, will handle these issues and bring back to the Board. There are several issues that will need to be addressed. There was discussion on the items that need to be addressed.

OLD BUSINESS

B. R-2015-08 Relating of District Legal Representation

Tabled with item A

C. R-2015-09 Relating of District Labor Legal Representation

Tabled with item A

NEW BUSINESS

A. Separation Letters per contracts

Chairman Lemois sent a memo to the Fire Committee in regards to separation letters.

According to some of the contracts signed by the previous boards, there is a required date that the contract holders must be notified of when their contracts will end.

The notification date between contracts varies between 90 and 120 days. Some contracts do not even have a notify requirement. The District will be sending notification letters to all contracted administrative personnel. Chairman Lemois believes that they all deserve

updated communications.

These letters will serve as notification that the District does not intend to continue their contract past June 30, 2015. It will also state that the opportunity for employment exists in some areas and notices will be posted at Headquarters. Positions will be different hours and compensation, which will be listed in the postings.

B. R-2015-16 Relating to Request of Cumberland Delegation to submit Super Lien Legislation

This resolution is in regards to a request for the R.I. Legislature to pass a bill granting the Cumberland Fire Department the ability to have a Super Lien status. Commissioner Champagne explained how this has helped other Districts.

The Cumberland Fire District needs a way to protect itself from delinquencies. A super lien would allow the Cumberland Fire District to have a high placement on the title for payment in the event of a foreclosure. This lien would allow for our taxpayers to place the Cumberland Fire District in escrow with their mortgage company. This Super Lien would also allow the District to collect past three years.

MOTION TO PASS RESOLUTION BY COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE. SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KOUTSOGIANE. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, MOTION PASSED 5-0.

C. R2015- Relating to the support of passage of Senate Bill S-0177

There was discussion that the Cumberland Fire District should be clarified as a public body. Upon passage of this resolution it shall be forwarded to the Cumberland delegation of R.I. Senators and Representatives. Also upon passage, the Cumberland Fire District will fully support S-0177.

COMMISSIONER SCULLIN MOTIONED TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE MONTH. SECOND BY KOUTSOGIANE. THERE WAS A ROLL CALL VOTE AND MOTION TO TABLE PASSED 4-0 WITH CHAIRMAN LEMOIS VOTING NAY.

PUBLIC INPUT

Brian Kelly gave input in regards to the finance consultant being an employee vs vendor.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN MOVED BY COMMISSIONER CHAMPAGNE. SECOND BY KOUTSOGIANE AT 7:52 P.M. PASSED 5-0.

Submitted by
Debra Auclair
Acting-Committee Clerk